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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Program Director
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Written testimony supporting HB 6603, An Act Concerning The Class III Renewable
Portfolio Standard

Representative Nardello, Senator Fonfara, and members of the Committee:

Environment Connecticut submits this testimony supporting Raised House Bill 6603. This bill would enable residential customers to receive 100% of the value of Class III credits by aggregating such value for efficiency projects that benefit them but were not provided by Connecticut Energy Efficiency programs.

This change will benefit Connecticut by creating a new method of incentivising investments in energy efficiency measures that cut consumer's energy bills, reduce electric demand in the state, and avoid polluting emissions from electric generation. This bill would enable entities such as community clean energy task forces and nonprofit organizations to use the value of Class III credits to fund community-based energy efficiency programs.

A further benefit from this legislation is that the viability (and availability to consumers) of the energy efficiency programs it incentivizes would not be dependent upon the availability of ratepayer funding through the Conservation & Load Management Fund. These programs would be safe from the threat of ill-advised "raids" on the C&LM fund to close state budget deficits.

Environment Connecticut also recommends that this legislation be modified to include annual increases in the amount of the Class III RPS by at least 1% per year. This would help ensure that the market for private efficiency investments would be supported by a sufficiently robust Class III requirement.

Environment Connecticut urges the committee to approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Program Director
Environment Connecticut